

## BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

THE STORY OF A  
YOUNG IMMIGRANT  
...OTHER FICTIONNew Novels by Elias Tobenkin, A. H. Fitch, Wilfred  
T. Grenfell, and Percival C. Wren.English Society Life in India—A Farical Story by  
Richard Dehan—E. Temple Thurston's New Book.

It might be thought from the cap-  
tivity of Elias Tobenkin's story, "Witte  
Arrives" (Frederick A. Stokes Com-  
pany), that a late Russian dignitary  
of high political importance had come  
to town; the Witte of this tale, how-  
ever, was only a Russian emigrant boy  
who was brought by his mother to the  
shores. If the reader has been ac-  
customed to the flowing and peri-  
phrastic style in the fiction that has  
engaged him he will remark the dif-  
ference that will generally meet him  
here. This is a very simply told tale,  
a tale of plain statements that are  
sometimes almost abruptly downright  
clear.

Masha Witkovski was the name of  
the mother who had come with her  
children, Harry and Emil and Clara,  
to join her husband in America; it was  
here that the Witkovskis were reduced  
to the smaller compass of Witte. The  
entry into the new land was readily  
accomplished. A Castle Garden official  
read the card pinned to Mrs. Wit-  
kovski's shawl. He signed for her to  
follow and led the family forth. The  
children ran in order to keep up. All  
the members of the family carried  
bundles. A ferryboat took the Wit-  
kovskis across to New Jersey. They  
sat in a railway station. The ticket  
that they received, good to take them  
to the West, was of great length. The  
conductor on the train spoke Ger-  
man to them. It was good to hear  
him, though his language was quite  
different from their ghetto Yiddish.

There was something else that  
showered the alien family. The long  
land journey began. The children  
looked out the car window. It is re-  
lated: "The train passed within half  
a hundred feet of a big load of hay that  
was pulled by a pair of fine gray  
horses. The young farmer who was  
sitting on top of the load removed his  
wide brimmed straw hat and smiled  
and nodded to the children. All three  
of them were so astonished by this un-  
expected greeting from a man they had

never seen before, from an American,  
that for some moments they were  
unable to return the greeting. Clara re-  
covered first; she waved her handker-  
chief. She said: "Are they not splen-  
did, those Americans? Harry wanted  
to say something; the story tells us  
but a lump in his throat rendered him  
unable. Emil, too, sat silent. The  
story adds: "In after years the two  
brothers and sister often recalled the  
smile and greeting of the young far-  
mer on the hay wagon—the first greet-  
ing they had received from an American  
and a gentle—their first American  
smile."

If this part of the American recep-  
tion of the transplanted family was  
delightful, there were other manifesta-  
tions that were in gross contrast. In  
the town of Spring Water, where  
Aaron Witte, the fortune-telling head  
of the expatriate group, had established a  
home, the newcomers encountered  
rudeness. It is related: "A trivial in-  
cident which occurred at this time ex-  
perienced a profound and depressive in-  
fluence upon Mrs. Witte and left a scar  
that would never quite heal. She and  
her husband were out for a stroll one  
Sabbath afternoon when suddenly she  
perceived that they were being fol-  
lowed by a crowd of small boys, who  
were jeering and shouting at them." One  
of the boys threw a stone at the  
Witkovskis. A ferryboat took the Wit-  
kovskis across to New Jersey. They  
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expected greeting from a man they had

By the Author of  
"The Blindness of Virtue"

In his incidents our  
author goes sometimes  
daringly far, yet his  
frankness is ever bound  
about with delicacy.  
He is using the truth,  
not for exploitation, but  
in line with his purpose  
to make out his case by  
something better than  
preaching and precept.  
His realism is justified  
by his sincerity.—New  
York World.

THE SINS  
OF THE  
CHILDREN

—BY—  
COSMO HAMILTON  
AT ALL BOOKSELLERS  
352 pages. \$1.40 net.  
LITTLE, BROWN & CO., Boston

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By DR. ALLAN McLANE HAMILTON

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physician, and as traveler in Europe and the Far East,  
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ple. He is perhaps the most distinguished alienist alive to-day—  
having appeared as expert witness in most of the famous criminal  
trials of the last generation. His anecdotes of Agassiz, Edwin  
Booth, Mary Baker Eddy, Max Beerbaum, Henry Irving and  
many other folk of brilliant attainment, are as en-  
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sanity and American legal procedure.

(At All Bookellers) Illustrated Octavo \$3.50  
GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY, New York  
Publishers in America for HODDER & STOUGHTON

## DUTTON'S

ALL THE BEST

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

681 FIFTH AVENUE

KATRINA TRASK  
"THE INVISIBLE  
BALANCE SHEET" (LAME)E. TEMPLE THURSTON,  
"THE FIVE-BARRED GATE" (APPLETON)RICHARD DEHAN  
"A GILDED VANITY" (STOKES)

In town and quite unnoticed by the  
American press. Emil went forth as  
bitten and wrote a series of photo-  
graphic stories that stirred the town.  
Entering a photographer's shop one  
day he made the acquaintance of a  
young woman who sat at the retouch-  
ing stand. She had been strongly  
moved by his stories and told him so.  
She was Miss Brod, a name shortened  
from Brodsky, for she too was a Rus-  
sian. Emil married Miss Brod, and  
they were happy. After a day's work  
for his newspaper, to come home and  
"hear Helen buying herself behind  
the screen with their dinner was ac-  
companied. A passage at this point de-  
scribes the stirrings of the higher  
literary spirit in Emil and insinuates  
what he was to accomplish later. We  
have him sitting with Helen at the  
foot of Lake Michigan, and we read:  
"Wells of poetry were springing up  
in his heart. Ideas were twittering  
through his brain. Thoughts flowered  
in a thousand colors. If he could but  
transfer these thoughts and feelings  
and dreams to paper, he mused, what  
wonderful writing that would make!"

In New York later he wrote a book  
that the publisher praised highly. It  
was a novel about things that the  
author had lived through, the publisher  
said, about suffering that his own soul  
had experienced. "You have arrived,"  
said another authority, speaking of  
Emil's achievements as a writer, and  
his word explains the title of this  
straightforward, realistic story.

## THE BREATH OF THE DRAGON.

(G. F. Putnam's Sons.) By A.  
H. Fitch.

A straightforward tale of adventure  
in an unusual setting is told by A. H.  
Fitch in "The Breath of the Dragon" (G.  
F. Putnam's Sons). A Manchurian  
in order to save the life of her lover,  
who is a Chinese reformer, makes her  
way with great courage and ingenuity  
into the women's quarters of the Sum-  
mer Palace and the presence of the  
Dowager Empress. Whether the  
description of these forbidden mys-  
teries and the conduct of the imperial  
personages will satisfy Oriental realists  
or not it will do well enough for West-  
ern readers. The young woman has a  
level page 23 as page 53, for we have  
heard of many boys who at a very  
early age had determined to be police-  
men, and of one who was resolved to  
be an assassin.

Emil's uncle Simon was a nihilist  
who had escaped from Siberia. We  
find him saying to Emil: "The helot  
of Sparta and the factory worker of  
St. Petersburg, London, Paris, New  
York are first cousins." He also said,  
while he and the boy sat at the edge  
of a lake as the moon was rising:  
"You will write about these things,  
about these struggles between the  
masses and their masters. For you  
are going to be a writer. That  
think, is your calling in life." The  
story says that Emil trembled, that a  
faintness overcame him, that he felt as  
if he were being consecrated to a high  
and holy office. His uncle Simon  
spoke true prophecy. He did become  
a writer.

We find the Sunday editor saying  
to Emil in Chicago: "I want you to  
go out and find this 'drowning world'  
for us." He had been reading in a  
Socialist weekly of a world drowning

Only the names are fictitious in the  
vivid "Tales of the Laborer" (Houghton  
Mifflin Company) that Dr.  
Wilfred Thomason Grenfell has to tell  
about the sturdy fisherfolk among  
whom he labors. There are eleven of  
them, most of them stories of the courage,  
the endurance, the independence  
and the brotherly kindness of the  
travellers on the Labrador coast, but  
a few describing the ways and the vir-  
tues of their Eskimo neighbors. They  
are fine stories, told with the simplicity  
which is the highest art and proving  
again that true stories are fully as in-  
teresting as the work of the imagination.

## DRIFTWOOD SPARS.

(Longmans,  
Green & Co.) By Percival  
Christopher Wren. (\$1.85.)

Powerful descriptions of savage  
character, joined to the bitter contempt  
for British mismanagement in India,  
mark Capt. Percival Christopher  
Wren's "Driftwood Spars" (Longmans,  
Green & Co.), a remarkable book in  
many ways. The hero is a half-breed,  
descended from a Pathan chief and a  
Highland laird, with a European edu-  
cation and a miraculous ability to  
change from his Pathan to his Eng-  
lish personality at a moment's notice;  
in both capacities he is a prince among  
men. First he is shown as a Pathan  
in a contest of wit against native  
treachery, a tale of diabolical cruelty  
which is justified. Then we are told  
about his Somali bodyguard, a story  
of unpeppery brutality through  
which the man preserves his loyalty  
and his own officials, those engaged in  
trade and their women, and the harm  
done by interference from home; the  
life of a military station seen through  
native eyes. The hero here appears  
as a British officer trying with a few  
others to get efficient work done. At  
last there is an uprising, a massacre,  
and the hero takes charge to hold back  
the natives; his drastic measures are  
successful, but meanwhile he shows  
the English weaklings in their true  
light. Then the woman he loves  
scoffs the hero because he is part

native; he runs amuck and is hanged  
by the British authorities. The au-  
thor repeatedly assures us that his re-  
marks about Germans and his prophe-  
tic warnings were written two years  
before the war broke out. The sav-  
estories are told brilliantly; the author  
puts himself in the place of the na-  
tives in an astonishing manner and  
pours out his wrath without restraint  
on the blind stupidity of British rule.  
It is a striking book as a story and  
as a political plea.

## DAMARIS.

(Dodd, Mead & Co.)  
By Lucas Malet. (\$1.40.)

English society in India is depicted  
in no placid colors by Lucas Malet in  
"Damaris" (Dodd, Mead & Co.). There  
are few decent people in the settlement  
which is the scene of the morbid story  
and fewer still with manners; most  
of the men are vicious and the women  
are evil minded. It seems decidedly  
unconventional, however, for a married  
woman to make a prolonged visit  
to a widower with no grown women  
in his family, so that there is some ex-  
cuse for the gossip. The man is  
Commissioner for the district, the  
master here favored by women. Malet  
threw, who pursues a course disap-  
proved by the authorities and who has  
loved the woman for many years,  
though she was twice and he once

## A GILDED VANITY.

(George H.  
Doran Company.) By Richard  
Dehan. (\$1.40.)

A series of farcical situations which  
are sometimes very funny on a subject  
which many people regard as serious  
make up Richard Dehan's "A Gilded  
Vanity" (George H. Doran Company).  
The central figure is a kind hearted  
busybody with a mania for marrying  
everybody who comes in her way. She  
forces an amiable gentleman who loves  
her twice into the divorce court on ac-

count of the wives she has picked out  
for him. She also helps the heroine,  
a charming girl, to marry the disol-  
ute, heir of a duke. The girl loves a de-  
cent fellow who is not rich, but has  
persuaded herself that it is her duty  
to marry for position and money. Af-  
ter she discovers the mistake she has  
made she is set free by her husband's  
confession that he was already mar-  
ried to a barmaid when he married her.  
The heroine's younger sister, a school-  
girl, has the same ideal of marriage  
and is absolutely unscrupulous; her  
premature efforts to secure a husband  
are the cause of more comical compli-  
cations. The tone of the book is kept  
consistently and brightly to the end,  
but it is often out of place and jars.

DR. NICK. (Small, Maynard &  
Co., Boston.) By L. M. Steele.  
(\$1.40.)

In spite of a good deal of mysticism  
and impressionistic vagueness about  
facts the reader will feel attracted to  
the heroine of L. M. Steele's "Dr. Nick"  
(Small, Maynard & Co.) and will sym-  
pathize with the poetic cravings of her  
childhood and her experiences as a  
hospital nurse until she has declared  
her love to the hero. The author  
seems to have unpleasant impressions  
of hospitals, nurses and surgeons and  
to require some sort of psychic influ-  
ence in physicians. Her behavior after  
her rejection seems to be on the lower  
plane of ordinary girls, and there is no  
need of hypnotic suggestion to account  
for her marriage to a rich man. His  
ingeniously cruel treatment of her and  
the conduct of the doctors needs ex-  
planation; it seems designed merely to  
excuse her final action. The last half  
of the story is not as sincere or as  
artistic as the first.

THE FIVE-BARRED GATE. (Ap-  
pleton.) By E. Temple Thurston.  
(\$1.40.)

A single theme, the fading away of  
the manifestations of affection in mar-  
ried couples after a few years of mar-  
riage, is handled in a bantering tone  
for 300 pages by E. Temple Thurston  
in "The Five-Barred Gate" (Appleton).  
The scene is set in a party at the  
secluded minutely and humorously, and  
for emphasis the author makes use of  
two couples, one in the kitchen, the  
other in the parlor. The craving for  
romance which drives husbands and  
wives to seek it outside the home is  
shown to be the same and to take the  
same form, though its manifestation  
is vulgar and comical in the humbler  
couple and humorously refined in the  
other. All the flirtations, however,  
come to a proper end and leave both  
couples better fitted to pull together.

## IN THE GARDEN OF DESIRE.

(Thomas Y. Crowell Company.)  
By L. H. Hammond. (\$1.)

The reflections of a chronic invalid,  
who is fond of her bed and growing  
things, are chronicled in L. H. Ham-  
mond's "In the Garden of Desire"  
(Thomas Y. Crowell Company). She  
talks pleasantly and sentimentally  
about nature and with resignation  
about her own ailments. She de-  
scribes her neighborhood with amusing  
accuracy and follows the course of two  
simple love affairs with great sym-  
pathy. The reader must be in the au-  
thor's mood if he is to feel interested  
in the book.

## REFINING FIRES.

(F. J. Kennedy  
and Sons, New York.) By Alice  
Deane.

Money plays too large a part in  
settling matters in Alice Deane's  
"Refining Fires" (F. J. Kennedy and Sons),  
and the author seems to have strange  
ideas about gambling. The heroine  
behaves with dignity and shows proper  
religious spirit when she suffers from  
the spite of her mercenary mother-in-  
law and who she forgives the man  
who has wronged her family. The  
charitable old lady is charming, and  
the author seems acquainted with  
some phases of Paris life.

## JITNEY AND THE BOYS.

(Dutton & Co.) By Bennet Cop-  
plestone. (\$1.50.)

The fate of all automobile stories  
attends Bennet Coppelstone's "Jitney  
and the Boys" (E. P. Dutton & Co.).  
There is considerable humor about  
the running and the mechanism of the  
machine which those who have auto-  
mobiles may appreciate. When the  
motor starts its itinerary is described  
in detail, and as this is through by-  
ways of England it may fail to in-  
terest Americans. The three boys are  
amusing, particularly the youngest  
one, when they are given a chance.  
In the first part they capture a Ger-  
man spy. In the second part the  
author tells how England took the  
declaration of war, and describes in  
detail how she enlisted and how  
much his Boy Scout work helped  
to make him useful in the time of  
need. There are many pleasant bits  
in this rather haphazard book.

A LITTLE QUESTION IN LADIES'  
RIGHTS. (John Lane Company.)  
By Parker H. Fillmore. (50c.)

In an extremely funny short story  
that is true to life, "A Little Question  
of Ladies' Rights" (John Lane Com-  
pany), Parker H. Fillmore gives the  
essence of the woman question. The  
actors are children, but the fun is  
of the kind that grown people and not  
children will enjoy. The small girls  
experiment with her digestive organs  
start the fun, and the manner in  
which she exacts her dues from the  
recreant boy will be appreciated by  
every family man.

BOOKS AND BOOKMEN

It is not usually known that "Beau-  
tiful Joe" was first published as the re-  
sult of winning a prize in a 500 com-  
petition (and it was an odd sort of  
competition, too, for the prize of \$200  
was offered with the alternative of the

The Christmas card which figures so  
prominently in the romance of a  
Christmas Card." Kate Douglas Wig-  
gin's latest story, is to be enclosed in the  
comfort boxes which the Women's Edu-  
cational Union of Boston are sending to  
the English soldiers. The cards are to  
be donated by the A. M. Davis Com-  
pany, and the little verse is  
particularly fitting to its mission. The  
last four lines read:  
"My heart is open wide to-night  
For stranger, kith or kin,  
I would not bar a single door  
Where love might enter in."

Though their countries are fighting  
each other, Padraic Colum, the Irish  
poet, and Willy Fogarty, the Hungarian  
illustrator, are the best of friends. As  
Mr. Colum cheerfully phrases it, they  
combine as well as Irish stew and  
goose and in "The King of Ireland's Son"  
in the style of Gaelic folk romance,  
which the poet has written in prose and  
the artist illustrated both in color and  
line, with evident enjoyment of their  
work, in which heroes, peasants, giants,  
enchanters, and "beasties" all combine  
in a lively folk romance for the young.

married. He has a small daughter,  
a precocious spoiled child who falls  
violently in love with the woman. The  
latter, however, is of a shallower na-  
ture, is contented with her husband,  
and has only regarded her host as an  
old friend. When he declares his love,  
he explains how it was he married and  
demands that she elope with him. She  
is naturally confused and is glad to  
find an excuse for escaping from him.  
The author tries to mitigate his be-  
havior with many elaborate descrip-  
tions of furnishings and the sugges-  
tion that the wickedness of the pre-  
vious Hindu occupants remained in the  
building. There was a chance to give  
a humorous turn to this story, but  
instead we are regaled with the views  
of an unpleasant lot of people about  
what they guess of it.

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her twice into the divorce court on ac-

## AUTHORS AND THEIR WORK

Capt. Ian Hay Beth, author of "The  
First Hundred Thousand" who is in  
this country on a three months leave of  
absence, shuts up like the proverbial  
box, when the conversation drifts  
around to his own part in the great  
struggle. Caught off his guard, how-  
ever, he told the following interesting  
little story. He carries a short stick  
which is surprisingly heavy, and when  
asked as to the secret of its weight he  
said:

"That's a loaded cane. When the  
officers go into action they are un-  
armed save for a stick of this sort, and  
it really comes to a hand to hand en-  
counter this stick would be quite likely  
to do damage to a German head. Al-  
though I never had occasion to defend  
myself with it, the cane really saved my  
life at the battle of Loos. We were  
obliged to fall back, and when I reached  
the trench behind us I discovered that  
I had left my stick in the trench. We  
just vacated. It was a farewell gift  
from my wife, and naturally I didn't  
want to lose it. So I popped back  
again, and no sooner had I done so  
than I was killed. Well, in the very  
spot I had just left, killing two of my  
men."

By a curious coincidence two books  
have just been published on the general  
theme that laughter is the salvation of  
the world, one the posthumous work of  
our greatest humorist, Mark Twain, the  
other the work of one of the rebellious  
younger generation of to-day, James  
Oppenheim. And oddly enough it is the  
humorist who recommended laughter as  
a weapon. Oppenheim's "War and Laugh-  
ter" (Houghton Mifflin Company) is a  
book of essays for Mark Twain, strange  
as it may seem, was a profound pessimist  
in his philosophy of life. Mr. Oppenheim's  
"War and Laughter," on the other hand, is an  
expression of delight in the sheer conflict of  
existence. To the younger author, in other  
words, life is good for the same reason  
that it seemed bitter to the older; but  
the gospel of laughter plays the same  
part in both their points of view.

Editors are, as a rule busy men who  
have little time to give to the creation  
of literature. An exception is William  
Griffith, who produced all the poems  
contained in "Love and Losses of  
Pierrot" (Robert J. Shores) during odd  
intervals while acting as editor of the  
National Sunday Magazine. When  
called upon to explain how he found  
time to do this Mr. Griffith replied that  
it was not a case of choice but of neces-  
sity; he was so often unable to secure  
good poetry when it was needed that he  
fell into the habit of writing it himself.

Isaac F. Marcossow, coauthor with  
Daniel Frohman of "Charles Frohman:  
Manager and Man," which the Harpers  
have just published, has returned from  
England and France, where he went to  
study industrial and financial conditions.  
He was invited to be the guest of the  
Grand British Headquarters in France.  
Mr. Marcossow's articles will be first pub-  
lished serially and later will appear in  
book form.

Apparently the title character of the  
new William Dean Howells novel, "The  
Leathwood God," has had many an-  
alogues in various parts of the coun-  
try. The latest of these to come to light  
is one Jacob Cochrane, who, according to

THE ASHES  
OF MY HEART

By EDITH BLINN

A Book of Heart Throbs

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nature that has been written since the  
beginning of the world's existence is  
this book of heart throbs."

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The scene is set in a party at the  
secluded minutely and humorously, and  
for emphasis the author makes use of  
two couples, one in the kitchen, the  
other in the parlor. The craving for  
romance which drives husbands and  
wives to seek it outside the home is  
shown to be the same and to take the  
same form, though its manifestation  
is vulgar and comical in the humbler  
couple and humorously refined in the  
other. All the flirtations, however,  
come to a proper end and leave both  
couples better fitted to pull together.

## IN THE GARDEN OF DESIRE.

(Thomas Y. Crowell Company.)  
By L. H. Hammond. (\$1.)

The reflections of a chronic invalid,  
who is fond of her bed and growing  
things, are chronicled in L. H. Ham-  
mond's "In the Garden of Desire"  
(Thomas Y. Crowell Company). She  
talks pleasantly and sentimentally  
about nature and with resignation  
about her own ailments. She de-  
scribes her neighborhood with amusing  
accuracy and follows the course of two  
simple love affairs with great sym-  
pathy. The reader must be in the au-  
thor's mood if he is to feel interested  
in the book.

## REFINING FIRES.

(F. J. Kennedy  
and Sons, New York.) By Alice  
Deane.

Money plays too large a part in  
settling matters in Alice Deane's  
"Refining Fires" (F. J. Kennedy and Sons),  
and the author seems to have strange  
ideas about gambling. The heroine  
behaves with dignity and shows proper  
religious spirit when she suffers from  
the spite of her mercenary mother-in-  
law and who she forgives the man  
who has wronged her family. The  
charitable old lady is charming, and  
the author seems acquainted with  
some phases of Paris life.

## JITNEY AND THE BOYS.

(Dutton & Co.) By Bennet Cop-  
plestone. (\$1.50.)

The fate of all automobile stories  
attends Bennet Coppelstone's "Jitney  
and the Boys" (E. P. Dutton & Co.).  
There is considerable humor about  
the running and the mechanism of the  
machine which those who have auto-  
mobiles may appreciate. When the  
motor starts its itinerary is described  
in detail, and as this is through by-  
ways of England it may fail to in-  
terest Americans. The three boys are  
amusing, particularly the youngest  
one, when they are given a chance.  
In the first part they capture a Ger-  
man spy. In the second part the  
author tells how England took the  
declaration of war, and describes in  
detail how she enlisted and how  
much his Boy Scout work helped  
to make him useful in the time of  
need. There are many pleasant bits  
in this rather haphazard book.

A LITTLE QUESTION IN LADIES'  
RIGHTS.(John Lane Company.)  
By Parker H. Fillmore. (50c.)

In an extremely funny short story  
that is true to life, "A Little Question  
of Ladies' Rights" (John Lane Com-  
pany), Parker H. Fillmore gives the  
essence of the woman question. The  
actors are children, but the fun is  
of the kind that grown people and not  
children will enjoy. The small girls  
experiment with her digestive organs  
start the fun, and the manner in  
which she exacts her dues from the  
recreant boy will be appreciated by  
every family man.

## BOOKS AND BOOKMEN

It is not usually known that "Beau-  
tiful Joe" was first published as the re-  
sult of winning a prize in a 500 com-  
petition (and it was an odd sort of  
competition, too, for the prize of \$200  
was offered with the alternative of the

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